

17. (Secret - GLC) Met with James Gehrig, Staff Director of the Senate Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee, regarding the Washington Post and New York Times articles which appeared on 31 January having to do with Soviet space failures. I told Gehrig that, in view of the unusual coincidence between the substance of these articles and their appearance with the briefing given Parker and himself two days earlier, we were wondering whether he or Parker has briefed anyone else on their discussions at the Agency. Gehrig said they had not. He expressed his concern over this situation also since, as he put it, it "made them look bad" particularly the inclusion of the items having to do with Soviet [redacted] We came to no conclusions about this although Gehrig said he wanted to talk further with Parker who had left for the day.

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18. (Unclassified - GLC) Hand carried to the office of Senator Stuart Symington (D., Mo.) a letter from the Director to the Senator.

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19. (Confidential - JMM) [redacted] and I called on Ed Braswell, Chief of Staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, to advise him of our concern over the reintroduction of the Ervin bill (S. 782 - Constitutional Rights of Federal Employees). We reminded Braswell of the serious problem which the bill poses for the Agency but we also indicated we wanted to avoid being accused of "lobbying" against it. We recommended several alternatives for seeking Agency exemption from the bill and indicated our concern that the bill not move too rapidly. Braswell seemed to appreciate the problem but strongly recommended that every effort be made to avoid conflict (particularly in a floor fight) with Senator Ervin. He suggested that we try to see Ervin once more in an effort to convince him of the need for our exemption. (See Memo for Record for details.)

Mr. Braswell mentioned that the Committee had not been thoroughly organized as yet but that we could expect intensive questioning on the ABM issue when a Committee briefing is scheduled.

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